

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on May 27, 2004.

Claims 72-75, 83-91, and 93 are amended. Claims 72-77 and 83-93 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 72-77 and 85-87 were objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the objections.

§102/§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 72, 76, 77, 83 and 87 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kroll (U.S. Patent No. 5,257,634). Applicant has amended independent claims 72 and 83 to include the subject matter of allowable claims 73 and 84, respectively. Claims 76, 77, and 87 depend from claims 72, and 83. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant does not admit to and reserves the right to traverse the characterizations regarding the cited reference and the suggestions to modify the reference on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Applicant notes that the Office Action took Official Notice of some elements of the claims. Applicant reserves the right to traverse the Official Notice under M.P.E.P. § 2144.03.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 73-75 and 84-86 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten the claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any other intervening claims.

Applicant has amended previously withdrawn claims 88-93 to be dependent on allowable claims 85 and 75. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT M. PARTRIDGE ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. Box 2938

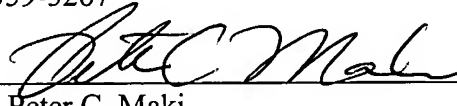
Minneapolis, MN 55402

(612) 359-3267

Date

7/27/04

By



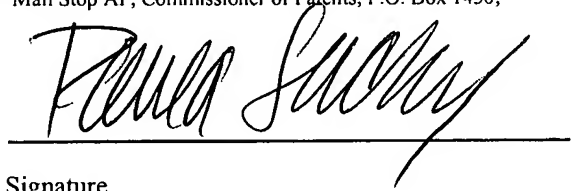
Peter C. Maki

Reg. No. 42,832

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27 day of July, 2004.



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